

Forestry Technician (Fire) Hotshot/Handcrew GS-462-4/5

The Mark Twain National Forest is currently recruiting to fill one Forestry Technician Hotshot/Handcrew (Fire), GS-0462-04/05 (18/8) position on the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District, in **Ava, Missouri**. This position is a primary wildland firefighter for the Zone 3 fire program, which is comprised of the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs and the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Districts. The incumbent serves on the District fire staff and will be directly supervised by the Zone Fire Management Officer. This is a permanent positions with varying tours of duty and may include weekend work. Tours of duty include full-time or less than full-time (guaranteed minimum 18 pay periods full-time employment). The annual salary ranges \$27,990.00 to \$40,706.00.

DUTIES: Serves as a skilled crewmember on a hand crew assigned to suppress the full range of difficulty and complexity of fires. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment, and techniques while actively suppressing wildfires, such as a pulaski, shovel, McLeod, ax and chainsaw to control the spread of wildfire. Performs basic fireline activities such as line construction, lopping and scattering of fuels using hand tools and holding, patrolling, monitoring, and mop-up operations. Moves dirt, chops brush, small trees, etc. to construct fire line. Is responsible for observing the rules of wildland firefighting safety. Applies practices and techniques to minimize resource damage.

Independently or with one or two other crewmembers may be assigned to carry out specialized assignments such as tree falling, backfire and burnout. Serves as a skilled wildland firefighter on an organized crew during prescribed burns, monitoring and controlling the fire, and collecting data on fire weather and fire behavior. Also performs project work such as fuel inventory and hazard fuel reduction projects. Depending on experience level, may be assigned to structure fire protection.

QUALIFICATIONS: This position has been identified under the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) and is subject to selective placement factor requirements. The applicant must possess these qualifications to be considered for this position. For further information:
<http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov/standard/electronicver/electronic.htm>

Incumbent must have a minimum qualification of FFT1 and have completed the S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior course to meet the basic qualification requirement for this position.

Applicants are required to submit a copy of their Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) Master Record (or equivalent training document) which contains documented proof of the certification or attainment of the above IFPM Selective Placement Factors in order to be considered eligible.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The vacancy announcement for this position is posted on the U.S. Government's

official website for employment opportunities at, www.usajobs.gov under vacancy announcement [OCRP-462-IHC/HCREW-4/5G](#) for those who have career **status** with a federal government agency. For those who are not federal agency employees, the vacancy number is [OCRP-462-IHC/HCREW-4/5DP](#). This position is open on an Open and Continuous Recruitment (OCR) announcement with no closing date.

If you are interested in this position, apply to the announcement and be sure to list **Ava, Missouri** as the preferred duty station. Those who wish to be considered for this position must apply to the vacancy announcement by **February 15, 2013**. The Referral List for this position will be issued to the selecting official on **February 19, 2013**. All applicants who have applied to the announcement on or before the listed dates and are found to be qualified and in the quality group will be referred for consideration.

Firefighter Retirement Coverage: This is a primary/rigorous firefighter position under the provisions of 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412(d) (FERS).

Office of Personnel Management Qualifications: Complete qualification requirements for this position can be found in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Operating Manual for Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions, which is available from any Federal Government Personnel Office and OPM on their web site (www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm).

Time-in-Grade Requirement: If you are a current or former federal employee and applying for a promotion opportunity, you must have 52 weeks of federal service at the next lower grade in the normal line of progression for the position being filled. This requirement must be met within 30 days of the closing of this announcement.

One year of **specialized experience** at least equivalent to the GS-4 grade level in the Federal service is qualifying for the GS-5 grade level. **Specialized experience** is experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) to perform successfully the duties of the position and is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the Federal service. Graduate education or an internship can also be used to meet the specialized experience required, but **only** in those instances where it is directly related to the work of the position. Equivalent combinations of successfully completed post-high school education and experience are also qualifying.

If you are interested in knowing more about this position contact Reggie Bray at 417-683-4428, or e-mail rebray@fs.fed.us. If you are interested in this position, please complete the enclosed Outreach Notice form and return to the address listed on the form.

ABOUT THE FOREST:

The [Mark Twain National Forest](#) is made up of six ranger districts, mainly located in the southern third of the state. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in Rolla, Missouri. The Mark Twain NF contains approximately 1.5 million acres, comprised mainly of upland hardwoods and some associated shortleaf pine. A full range of vegetation and recreation management activities on the forest include timber harvest and regeneration activities, TSI, prescribed fire, developed and dispersed recreation, and mining.

ABOUT THE MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE PROGRAM:

The Mark Twain National Forest experiences between 150-300 wildfires annually, burning 2,000 to 12,000 acres. There are two fire seasons, spring (Feb 15 – May 10) and fall (Oct 10 – Dec 10). Both overlap prescribed burning season. Primary fuels are leaf litter and pine needles. The Forest has an active hazardous fuels and ecological improvement prescribed burning program of approximately

40,000 acres per year using both hand and aerial ignition methods. Additional hazardous fuel projects are accomplished through mechanical methods. A large portion of the Forest consists of checkerboard property ownership with numerous areas having a growing urban interface with the Forest.

The Forest is divided into three fire management zones. Each zone has a Zone FMO and two Zone AFMO's – one Operations Specialist and one Fuels Specialist. Each zone also has four 13/13 firefighters, and seasonal firefighters when budgets allow.

The Forest is rated as High Complexity, primarily due to the aviation component. We annually host an Interagency Type 3 Exclusive Use Helicopter from February 15 – April 20. In addition to fire positions, the Forest has an active and skilled militia which contribute greatly to the fire program.

ABOUT THE ZONE 3 FIRE PROGRAM:

The Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District and the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District make up the Zone 3 fire management unit. The zone averages 70+ wildfires a year and prescribed burns an average of 15,000+ acres a year. This year the prescribed fire target is over 24,000 acres. The zone also utilizes 4 Type 3 dozers and two Type 6 engines.

DISTRICT INFORMATION: The A/C/W RD covers approximately 320,000 acres of Federal Ownership. It is located in seven southwestern Missouri counties: Barry, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Stone, and Taney.

A/C/W RD hosts 25 PFT positions. The District program of work includes management of the largest acreage of Federally owned glades in the State of Missouri; management of three State Natural Areas; timber harvesting for utilization and other resource objectives; three recreation fee demo campgrounds (one of which connects to 125 miles of ATV and motorcycle trails), two day use areas, three scenic byways, one national recreation trail and many dispersed recreation opportunities. The program of work also includes the management of three Wilderness Areas: Hercules Glades – 12,315 acres (Ava unit); Piney Creek – 8,142 acres (Cassville unit); and Devil's Backbone – 6,595 acres (Willow Springs unit); special uses management is increasing with the emphasis in road access, recreation events, utilities and commercial outfitter and guide uses.

There are numerous non-recreational caves (currently under a Forest Closure Order) on the District and Forest, managed for various Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species. An active heritage program exists on the A/C/W RD. It is rich in cultural resources including Native American, Civil War and Civilian Conservation Corps history.

Ecosystems on the District include cedar glade, oak, oak-pine, and pine forests, oak savanna, and open woodlands. The terrain ranges from the rough breaks and dissected hill country to the flat plains. Walking conditions can range from open park like conditions to steep slopes with dense mid and understories

The HRCC District covers approximately 350,000 acres with approximately 196,800 acres being in Federal ownership. It is located in seven Missouri counties: Boone, Callaway, Laclede, Phelps, Pulaski, Texas, and Wright. The District is rich with rivers and streams: the beautiful bluffs of the Big Piney River, the Gasconade River and Little Piney River in the southern part of the district and Cedar Creek at the north end. Fishing and canoeing opportunities abound. Smaller creeks supplied by springs provide other fishing or water-based recreational opportunities, including trout fishing. The oak/hickory and shortleaf pine forests provide abundant opportunities to observe and/or hunt wildlife such as turkey, white-tailed deer and squirrels.

The District hosts 19 PFT positions. The district contains four campgrounds, four day-use areas, several developed trailheads and river accesses. The program of work also includes the management of the Paddy Creek Wilderness (7,019 acres) on the Houston unit, a large special uses program, a diverse wildlife management program, a large prescribed fire program, a well-developed openlands habitat management program including grazing permits, and a timber management program. Fort Leonard Wood, a 63,000 acre military installation lies within the district boundary. The district is influenced by dispersed and developed recreation users from this unit, as well as works cooperatively on a variety of projects.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: AVA, MISSOURI

Ava, Missouri has a population of approximately 3,000 and is located in south central Missouri in the heart of the Missouri Ozarks in Douglas County (population est. 15,000). It is 60 miles southeast of Springfield, Missouri, 13 miles south of U.S. Route 60 and 60 minutes East of Branson, Missouri. Branson is just a stone's throw from our units of Ava and Cassville. Ava is the Douglas County seat. It is a full service community.

Recreation: Outdoor recreation opportunities abound and include fishing, hunting, hiking, nature watching, camping, mountain biking, and boating. Ava is 45 to 90 minutes from Table Rock Lake, Lake Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals lakes for boating and fishing. A municipal pool was recently built for the town of Ava and a private pool exists at the Ava Country Club. Other facilities and amenities available in Ava include: playgrounds; a variety of childrens sports programs, such as softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, and football; a 9-hole country club golf course (grass greens), tennis courts, indoor archery and a new community fitness center. Ava is also the home of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, which is the only place in the world where a fox trotter can be registered.

Industry is primarily rural-agricultural with the emphasis of dairy farms, cattle ranching, sawmills and small businesses. Copeland Manufacturing is Ava's only large industrial plant.

Real estate: Homes in the Ava community and surrounding areas range from \$45,000 to \$150,000 plus; some include acreage. The majority are two to three bedroom homes. Rental houses are difficult to obtain, rental rates are \$300 to \$450 per month plus utilities. There are four trailer parks in the area. Buildable land at reasonable prices is available.

Government Quarters - NONE.

Education: Education opportunities include public primary and secondary schools. In addition, Drury University and Southwestern Missouri State University have satellite extensions in Ava. The Ava High School has AAA classification and hosts a vocational education program. Douglas County Public Library is also located in Ava.

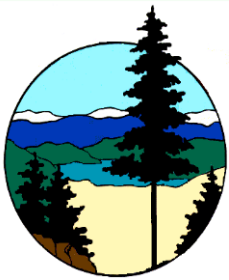

Medical: There are health care facilities in AVA however, the nearest hospitals and specialists are located in Springfield, West Plains and Branson, Missouri.

Shopping facilities are better than average for a town of this size. Ava hosts a natural food store, Walmart, antiques stores, archery shop, and a variety of restaurants. In addition Ava is approximately one hour from Springfield and Branson. Branson is world famous for musical shows and Silver Dollar City. There are four banks with full banking facilities and three full service savings and loan establishments as well. Movie goers have access to one theater in Ava.

Churches of many denominations can be found in Ava. Civic organizations include: Lion's Club, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs.

Weather in the summers average 73° F, however, occasionally the temperatures have reached 100° F and above in July and August. Winters have an average temperature of 52 °F. Temperatures may drop below 0 degrees for short periods of time.

For more information, check out the Ava Chamber of Commerce website, [Ava Missouri Area Chamber of Commerce](#) (hit Ctrl and click on this hyperlink to connect to the website).

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Mark Twain National Forest Ava, MO</h3> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Caring for the Land and Serving People"</i></p> 
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If you are interested in this position, please complete this form and send:

E-mail to: Reggie Bray (rebray@fs.fed.us) or Jenny Farenbaugh (jfarenbaugh@fs.fed.us), or

Mail to: USDA- Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest, ATTN: Reggie Bray, P.O. Box 188 , Ava, MO 65608, or

FAX to: 417-683-5722, ATTN: Reggie Bray.

Forestry Technician (Fire) Hotshot/Handcrew

Location: *Eastern Region, Region 9, Mark Twain National Forest, Zone 3, A/C/W R.D.*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone: _____ Work: _____ Home: _____

Are you currently a Federal employee? Yes _____ No _____

Permanent? _____ Temporary? _____ TERM? _____ VRA? _____ PWD? _____ OTHER? _____

Current Title/Series/Grade: _____

Agency Employed with and location: _____

Thank you for your interest!